

**Remarks/Arguments**

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

**Claim Status**

Clams 1-7 were presented. Claims 6 and 7, which are withdrawn from consideration due to restriction and election of claims 1-5, are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 2 are amended. Claims 1-5 are now pending.

**Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112**

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. In particular, the Action asserts that the claims contain group language that is unclear. In response, claim 2 is amended for clarity to recite:

*...one of the pair of terminals protrudes from the side provided with the circuit board and from a side not provided with the circuit board on the battery cell, and*

*the other of the pair of terminals is provided at a different location on the battery cell than that of the one of the pair of terminals.*

Applicant submits that this language is clear and in compliance with 35 USC 112, and that the rejections should therefore be withdrawn.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102/103**

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b)/103(a) as anticipated by, or alternatively obvious over, Hirota (JP 2002-260615). In response, applicant traverses the rejection and amends claim 1 to clarify distinctions relative to Hirota.

The present invention is directed to a battery cell 2 having a circuit board 3 and a connector 9 attached to the circuit board 3. A molded resin portion 4 encloses the circuit board 3 (FIG. 1). Conventionally, molded resin portions are formed separately on either side of the connector (page 2, line 5-8). However, in the present invention, a resin path 14 is provided between connector 9 and circuit board 3 such that the molded resin portion can be formed continuously via the resin path This

feature improves the manufacturing efficiency of the battery (FIG. 2, 4 and page 9, lines 10-15).

Page 4 of the Action asserts that Hirota forms a molded resin portion along both sides 6b of a connector 6, while leaving plug section 6a exposed (FIGs. 3 and 5). However, as seen in FIG. 3, Hirota does not provide a resin path between connector 6 and circuit board 5. Connector 6 is an enclosed and solid structure such that resin cannot flow under connector 6 and between circuit board 5. Resin can only flow along outside surface 6b of connector 6, since there is no space between connector 6 and circuit board 3 to form a resin path.

The present invention, by contrast, provides a hollow opening in connector 9 such that a resin path 14 can be formed that allows a molded resin portion to be continuously formed (FIG. 2 and 3). Claim 1 is amended to clarify this fundamental difference between the present invention and Hirota. In particular, claim 1 is amended to recite that:

*...the resin path is provided between the connector and the circuit board...*

Since Hirota does not disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 1, it cannot anticipate or render obvious claim 1 or claims 2-5 dependent thereon. The rejections under 35 USC 102(b)/103(a) should therefore be withdrawn.

### **Conclusion**

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment.

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Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No.  
50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,  
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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